



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

Adoption Resolution

April 16, 2008

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j);, regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:
 - (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and
 - (b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a pupil. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2008-2009 school year:

September 2	Ramadan begins (Islam)
September 3	Ganesa Chaturthi (Hindu)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's birthday
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 14	Holy Cross Day (Christian)
September 15	Moon Cake Festival (Chinese Taoist)
September 28	Laylat al Kadar (Islam)
September 29-October 1	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 30	Feast of Trumpets (Philadelphia Church of God)
September 30-October 8	Navaratri (Hindu)
October 2	Eid al Fitr – Ramadan ends (Islam)
October 9	Yom Kippur (Jewish), Dasera (Hindu), Day of Atonement (Philadelphia Church of God)
October 14-20	Sukkot (Jewish), Feast of Tabernacles (Philadelphia Church of God)
October 20	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i), Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 21	Semini Atzeret (Jewish), Last Great Day (Philadelphia Church of God)
October 22	Simhat Torah (Jewish)
October 27	Reformation Day (Protestant Christian)
October 28	Milvian Bridge Day (Christian), Diwali/Deepavali (Hindu, Sikh, Jain)
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 13	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 26	Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
December 6-9	Hajj (Islam)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Catholic Christian), Rohatsu/Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 9	Eid al Adha (Islam)
December 12	Advent Fast begins (Orthodox Christian)
December 22-29	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 26	Zarathostht Diso (Zoroastrian), Kwanzaa
December 29	Muharram – first day of new year (Islam)
January 1	New Year's Day, Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 5	Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)

January 6	Epiphany (Christian, Armenian Orthodox), Theophany (Orthodox Christian)
January 7	Nativity of Christ (Orthodox Christian), Orthodox Christmas (Orthodox Christian, Oriental Orthodox Christian, Coptic Orthodox, Russian Orthodox), Ashura (Islam)
January 11-13	Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makara Sankranti (Hindu)
January 18	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 19	Feast of Epiphany (Orthodox Christian, Oriental Orthodox Christian, Russian Orthodox)
January 26	Chinese New Year (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist)
January 31	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
February 9	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 21	Saturday of Souls #1 (Orthodox Christian)
February 23	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
February 24	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 25	Ash Wednesday/Lent begins (Christian)
February 26-March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 2	Lent begins, Clean Monday (Orthodox Christian)
March 8	Orthodox Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
March 9	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
March 10	Purim (Jewish),
March 11	Holi (Hindu), Holla Mohalla (Sikh)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's birthday (Scientology)
March 21	Norouz/New Year (Persian/Zoroastrian), Naw Ruz/New Year (Baha'i)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian), First Day of Sacred Year (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 27	New Year (Hindu)
April 3	Rami Navami (Hindu)
April 5	Palm Sunday (Christian)
April 7	Mahavir Jananti (Jain)
April 8	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 9-10	Pesach/Passover (Jewish)
April 9-11	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 9-15	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 9	Lord's Evening Meal (Jehovah's Witness), Maundy Thursday (Christian), Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
April 10	Good Friday (Christian)
April 12	Easter (Christian), Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
April 14	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 15-16	Pesach/Passover – final two days (Jewish)
April 16	Holy Thursday (Oriental Orthodox Christian)
April 17	Holy Friday (Orthodox Christian), Good Friday (Oriental Orthodox Christian)

April 18	Lazarus Saturday (Orthodox Christian)
April 19	Easter/Pascha (Orthodox Christian)
April 21	Yom HaSho'ah (Jewish), First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Jewish), Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2	Buddha's birthday (Buddhist), Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 9	Visakha Puja/Vesak (Buddhist)
May 12	Lag b'Omer (Jewish)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 29-30	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 31	Pentecost (Philadelphia Church of God)
June 16	Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom (Sikh)
June 26	His Holiness the 17th Gyalawa Karmapa's (Ugyen Trinley Dorje) birthday

*** Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.*

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